

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112122

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJ: CONDITIONS FOR PLEBISITE

TEHRAN FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

1. GREEK MINISTER GREGORIADES CALLED ON DAVIES JUNE 7 FOR
TOLR D' HORIZON WHICH TOUCHED ON NEAR EAST, SECURITY
COUNCIL DEBATE ON ARAB- ISRAEL ISSUE AND REACTION TO
TERMINATION OF GREEK MONARCHY. DESK OFFICER LLOYD GEORGE
WAS PRESENT.

2. GREGORIADES NOTED WASHINGTON POST JUNE 7 REPORT
CARRYING STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL THAT EUROPEAN
SUBCOMMITTEE WILL HOLD THIRD SERIES OF HEARINGS ON U. S.
POLICY TOWARD GREECE AND ON FORTHCOMING GENERAL ACCOUNTING
OFFICE REPORT ON HOMEPORTING. HE OBSERVED ROSENTHAL'S
DESCRIPTION OF EXECUTIVE BRIEFING PREVIOUS DAY BY DAVIES
AS OFFERING QUOTE NOTHING PROVOCATIVE OR NEW OR
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DIFFERENT UNQUOTE IN TERMS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION' S POLICY AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WHAT REACTIONS TO THE BRIEFING IN FACT HAD BEEN.

3. DAVIES REPLIED THAT CONCERNS OF THOSE PRESENT (CHAIRMEN ROSENTHAL AND HAMILTON, CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY, AND COMMITTEE STAFFERS HACKETT AND VAN DUSEN) WERE CENTERED ON QUESTIONS OF THE FREEDOM AND FAIRNESS OF ELECTION PROCEDURES AND THE IMPACT OF UNREST IN GREECE' S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT ON GREECE' S MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE NATO CONTEXT. THEY URGED THE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE ALL MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE THE GREEK REGIME TO ENSURE FULL AND FREE PARTICIPATION OF ALL POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN THE PRE- ELECTION CAMPAIGNING.

4. GREGORIADES DISMISSED THE MILITARY ASPECT BY NOTING THAT THE DISLOYALTY OF QUOTE A HANDFUL UNQUOTE OF NAVAL OFFICERS COULD NOT BE PARLAYED INTO ASSERTIONS OF GENERAL DISAFFECTION IN THE GREEK MILITARY FORCES. HE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN THAT GREECE' S ALLIES MIGHT PUBLICLY INDICATE THEY HAD A WATCHING BRIEF ON GREEK INTERNAL PROCESSES. GREECE DID NOT ARROGATE TO ITSELF THE RIGHT TO COMMENT OR CRITICIZE POLITICAL INTEGRITY IN COPENHAGEN OR ANY OTHER ALLIED CAPITAL. WHY SHOULD THESE INTERVENE IN GREEK DOMESTIC AFFAIRS?

5. DAVIES SAID IT WAS COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC TO BELIEVE HOW THE REGIME' S ASSURANCES OF FREE ELECTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT WOULD NOT BE CLOSELY WATCHED AND COMMENTED UPON. THE ARRESTS OF MILITARY OFFICERS, LAWYERS AND OPPOSITION LEADERS SUCH AS JOHN PESMOZOULO, THE HOLDING OF INDIVIDUALS FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT CHARGES COULD ONLY CAUSE CONCERN AS TO THE EXTENT THOSE WHO FAVORED A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY OR LESS AUTHORITARIAN RULE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE. SPEAKING FRANKLY AND AS A FRIEND WHO HAD TAKEN BRUISES FOR STANDING UP FOR U. S. POLICY TOWARD GREECE, HE SAW TWO COURSES OPEN FOR THE REGIME. IT COULD RECOGNIZE THE STRONG DESIRE FOR POLITICAL MOVEMENT TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, EMBRACE IT, AND CARRY FORWARD ON ITS ANNOUNCED COURSE WITH REASONABLE CONFIDENCE IN ITS OUTCOME. THE SECOND, CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS TO REPRESS OPPOSITION, RIG ELECTIONS, AND LEAVE ITSELF OPEN TO CHARGES OF DEFYING THE POPULAR WILL. ALTHOUGH GREEK DECISIONS COULD ONLY BE MADE BY GREEKS AND OUTSIDERS HAD NO RIGHT TO INJECT THEMSELVES, THE SECOND COURSE COULD ONLY PRECIPITATE SHARP CRITICISM BY FRIENDS OF GREECE ON THE BASIS OF THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ON THE PREAMBLE OF THE ALLIANCE.

6. GREGORIADES SAID THAT IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF FRANK-
NESS, HE COULD ONLY REPEAT THAT PUBLIC CRITICISM FROM
GREECE' S ALLIES WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AND MIGHT FOSTER
RESENTMENT THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE TENDENCIES WE HOPED
TO AVOID.

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